

Serial No.: 10/090,335

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/370

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A lower blade shaft for a roller cutting machine for the lengthwise cutting of foils and strips into sectors with at least one lower blade, the lower blade shaft comprising:

a number of lower blades exceeding the number of cuts, wherein the lower blades are arranged in essentially regular intervals on the lower blade shaft, and the distances between the lower blades are selected to permit a flexible choice of sector width; and

a number of cutting bushings, each of the cutting bushings comprising numerous cutting blades, wherein the lower blades are designed to have dual cutting edges on a tongue of a keyway tongue division of the lower blade shaft, the dual cutting edges comprising cutting angles and the keyways having a width of 0.8 to 2 mm, so that the lower blade shaft is usable for a razor blade cutting method and for a shear cutting method.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The lower blade shaft according to claim 9, wherein the lower blades are arranged a distance of about 0.5 to 10 mm from each other.

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Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The lower blade shaft according to claim 9, wherein the lower blades are arranged a distance of about 1 to 2 mm from each other.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled).

Claims 16. (Previously Presented) A roller cutting machine for the lengthwise cutting of foils and strips into sectors comprising a lower blade shaft according to one of claims 9 to 13 and at least two upper blades that immerse into the lower blade shaft.